



CITIZEN'S REVIEW PANEL

Addendum F

FY22

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

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THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

In 1974, The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was signed into law. The CAPTA federal legislation guides child protection and is elaborated in U.S. Code (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq; 42 U.S.C. 5116 et. seq.). It was reauthorized with significant amendments and additions in 1978, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2003, and 2010. The Citizen Review Panels were first introduced in the CAPTA amendments of 1996, were further delineated in the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 and were modified by some additions in the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, P.L. 111-320.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) is the agency designated in Illinois to implement the provisions of CAPTA and meet requirements set out in federal law. Currently within IDCFS, the Bureau of Operations and the Division of Policy and Advocacy administer many of the programs and grants required under CAPTA, including the Citizen Review Panels. CAPTA funds programs providing community-based prevention, adoption opportunities, and assistance to abandoned infants.

Purpose of the Citizen Review Panels

The Illinois Citizen Review Panel was established in 1974 pursuant to Section 106 (c) of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The function of the panel is to examine the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local agencies to evaluate whether State and local child protection agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.

The Citizen Review Panel duties are to evaluate:

- The Illinois state CAPTA Plan and the specific areas of the child protective system which are addressed therein;
- The state's compliance with federal child protection standards and assurances set forth in the CAPTA law;
- Any other criteria that the panels consider important to ensure the protection of children, including:
 1. Review of the extent to which the State and local child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs
 2. Review of child fatalities and near fatalities.

The Development of Citizen Review Panels in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) established Citizen Review Panels to examine the policies and procedures of state and local child protective service agencies. Authorizing legislation for the Illinois Citizen Review Panels amended the Illinois Children and Family Services Act (20 ILCS 505/5) effective June 1999. According to the provisions of CAPTA, the individual states may: 1) designate one or more existing entities to satisfy the citizen review requirements; and 2) appoint volunteer members who are broadly representative of the

community, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

In forming the panels, IDCFS invited existing advisory committees to take on citizen review activities in addition to their other interests and statutory responsibilities. Currently, there are three panels operating within the Citizen Review Panels of Illinois: Child Death Review Executive Team, Children's Justice Task Force and Statewide Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.

The current panels are comprised of a variety of members who have experience working with children and families. The SCAN Committee has members who represent professional organizations, child welfare agencies, volunteer associations, and concerned citizens. The Children's Justice Task Force and Child Death Review Team Executive Council's membership is inclusive of members from numerous disciplines including medicine, medical examiners and coroners, mental health, law, criminal justice, public health, education, social work, child abuse prevention, parent and child advocacy as result of previous foster care involvement.

Citizen Review Panel Steering Committee met to begin to explore options for collaboration and panel development. One of the goals of the CRP steering committee is to meet at least twice a year to share information, set goals, and assess the progress of the recommendations of the Panels to the DCFS Director. Initial meeting participants included Coordinators and officers from each panel. The Steering committee will seek participation from various divisions within the department such as Office of Policy, Child Protection and the Division of Quality Assurance to gain knowledge and and real time information regarding into current policies and practices guiding child welfare and child protection. Steering Committee meetings were placed on hold during past year while individual boards work to increase membership. Both Children's Justice Task Force and Statewide Citizen's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect experienced unplanned decreases in membership due to life events such as illness, retirement and increased employment demands.

Citizen Review Panel Conference

The Annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference was cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Illinois eagerly awaits being able to resume conference participation. The annual conference provided educational and networking opportunities for CRP members, State Coordinators, Child Welfare Staff, and Child Welfare Partners that enable them to better understand Citizen Review Panels and the vital role and contribution of each panel collectively and individually. In the absence of Annual CRP Conference, several boards utilized this year to engage in local training opportunities via videoconferencing platforms to increase their knowledge and understanding of current issues within Child Welfare.

Collaboration and Strategic Planning Implementation

The CRP represents one of many advisory boards, committees and councils that have been given charge of making recommendations to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to aid in systematic practice improvement. To help eliminate silo work efforts, improve and

increase communication and collaboration across all the various entities, DCFS has recently form a Stakeholders Collaborative Team.

The Stakeholders Team has established six areas to focus its attention on during fiscal year 2022. The primary objectives of this group are: 1. Improve communication and increase awareness about initiatives across divisions. 2. Achieve consistent messaging of efforts and improve communication of stakeholder groups. 3. Achieve consistent messaging of efforts and initiatives. 4. Decrease duplication of efforts through strategic planning and communication, 5. Ensure stakeholders are engaged in collaboration on recommendations for system and/or practice changes. 6. Ensure stakeholders are informed timely of recommendation dispositions and track and archive responses to recommendations to keep a historical record for reference. The CRP Coordinator and Committee Liaison represents the Citizen Review Panel in monthly Stakeholder Collaborative Team Development, Planning and Implementation Meetings. The overall objective of Stakeholders collaborative is to support IDCFS efforts to achieve data-driven decision-making and to improve the agency's continuous quality improvement and strategic planning through intentional solicitation of internal and external stakeholder input.

**RESPONSE OF THE
ILLINOS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
TO THE
ILLINOIS CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS
COMBINED RECOMMENDATIONS 2020**

To: The Illinois Citizen Review Panels
From: Marc D. Smith, Acting Director
Date: May 18, 2021

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) appreciates your dedicated service and we thank you for your efforts on behalf of Illinois children. We have reviewed the 2020 recommendations from each of your respective panels and our responses are provided as follows (recommendation in **bold**, followed by non-bolded response):

CDRT Recommendations for FY 2020

1. DCFS needs to have standard guidelines on safe sleep.

The Department is committed to continue its clear direction about prioritizing safe sleep. We address it in our Home Safety Checklist, we train on Safe Sleep in our Foundational training for staff and the support of children and families of Illinois as it relates to Safe Sleep.

Upon receipt of the Illinois Strategic Plan for Eliminating Sleep-Related Deaths in Babies (Illinois Child Death Review Teams, 2020) the Department agrees with the recommendations and continues its work on the following:

- Comprehensive workgroup doing a full-scale review of P300 continues to meet and will do so through the end of the year when a rewrite is complete, all safe sleep practices are being looked at closely;
- Office of Communications is working on the development of a year-long Safe Sleep Campaign set to launch July 2021. It will include co-branded messaging with American Academy of Pediatrics, Audio PSA, Press releases, Pace bus posters, Instagram campaign etc. Licensing staff will be providing Safe Sleep posters in all newly licensed day care facilities; and all centers at the time of renewal
- The next staff training in the Safety First/Safety Always series is on Safe Sleep. Anticipated start date is June 1st.

2. DCFS to require workers to ask parents to do a drug test in all death and serious harms cases, especially in cases involving children under age three. 2) The team would like data on the effectiveness of field drug testing in immersion sites

We agree, assessing for the presence or absence of drugs/alcohol in the system of the caregiver responsible for the child at the time of their death/serious harm is a valuable tool in

painting a clear picture of the circumstances surrounding the death/serious harm. In fact, this occurs routinely due to the Investigative Plan created between the Child Protection Specialist and the Supervisor. However, we continue to not require it as we handle each and every case brought to our attention in a way that attends to the unique situation. Creating an “always” for cases like these would be incongruent with best practice. Finally, the Department is happy to discuss further with the Team the effectiveness of field drug testing in immersion sites, the corresponding data.

- 3. The design of the new CCWIS system should have additional capability to identify prior history on individuals rather than just using a birth date. One possible way would be to connecting family members, addresses or other identifying information; 2) IDs that workers check could possibly be scanned or photographed into the system to increase accuracy of information.**

The current SACWIS system provides investigators with the ability to conduct a complete review of all intakes naming any subject of their report. This includes child welfare referrals, No-report-taken intakes, investigations, intact services, and permanency/child cases. With the new CWIS system we look forward to a more inclusive way to quickly capture all of this for the investigator upon assignment of a report.

Also, with the design of the new CWIS system, we look forward to identifying ways that workers can use the new technology to capture electronically the identification provided by those we interview.

SCAN Recommendations for FY 2020

- 1. The advisory group is recommending the Director attend one SCAN meeting a year to keep the panel informed of Department priorities and allow the committee to consider future priorities for the administration of child abuse prevention, shelter and service programs in Illinois.**

The Department agrees that the Director should attend one SCAN meeting a year. We will ensure this happens to help the committee stay informed on Department priorities to best serve the children and families of Illinois.

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE TASK FORCE

The ***Children's Justice Task Force (CJTF)*** is a multidisciplinary, legislatively-mandated advisory group that makes recommendations to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) for improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse/exploitation and cases involving a combination of jurisdictions. The Task Force was organized in 1989 according to guidelines in the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and it became one of the Illinois Citizen Review Panels in 1999. Recommendations from this panel are focused on reducing child trauma, enhancing the effectiveness of judicial and administrative actions in child abuse cases, and reforming state laws and regulations for child protection and child welfare while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

The CJTF members represent professionals in the fields of child protection, law enforcement, medical and mental health, attorneys for the prosecution and defense, criminal and civil court judges, education, children with disabilities, child advocates, and parent advocates. The Task Force currently includes 25 members appointed by IDCFS to staggered 4-year terms. In FY20, two new members were added to the Task Force. The task force meets four times per year at various locations throughout the state for general meetings and in subcommittees as needed. This fiscal year had a change in Task Force leadership: Virginia Zic-Schlomas, retired Sergeant of the Chicago Police Department serves as the chair, and Paul Hamann, President and CEO of the Night Ministry in Chicago, serve as the vice-chair.

With the change in leadership came a change in subcommittee structure, adding the MDT Subcommittee and the Needs Assessment Subcommittee. The MDT Subcommittee's mission and purpose is to bring the report back to life and determine where it needs to be refreshed, updated, and/or re-focused. Additional focus shall include how the MDT approach can be applied to Human Trafficking. The Needs Assessment Subcommittee's mission is based upon the statute requirements.

FY21 Task Force Meeting Dates:

Videoconference Meetings

August 12, 2020
November 12, 2020
February 10, 2021
May 12, 2021 –

FY22 Task Force Meeting Dates:

Videoconference Meetings

August 11, 2021
November 10, 2021
February 9, 2022
May 11, 2022

CRP Annual Meeting

The CRP Annual Conference was cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. There are current plans to attend a virtual CRP conference in May of 2021. Details are forthcoming from the National CRP Committee.

Grantees Annual Meeting

Due to the pandemic, the Children's Justice Act Grantees & State Liaison Officers Annual Meeting will be held virtually on May 6-7, 2021. Members will participate in workshops and panel discussions including updates and resources from the Capacity Building Center for States, discussions with the Children's Bureau Leadership, and Family First Prevention Services Act and Title IV-E Prevention Plans Overview and Discussions.

Child Protection and Legislative Education Impacting Task Force Decision Making

IDCFS Child Protection Updates: The Task Force continues to receive updates and reports from IDCFS, including standard presentations from the General Counsel/Ethics Officer, the Deputy Director for External Communications and Advisory Groups, and the Deputy Director of Child Protection Services.

Statewide Child Abuse Needs Assessment

The Task Force will submit this year the FY21 three-year assessment for the period of 2019 – 2021. The process will review and evaluate state investigative, administrative and both the civil and criminal judicial handling of case of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities for said 3-year period. Based upon the data encompassed in the needs assessment, the Task Force will make recommendations to the state to guide their work for the next three years.

Children's Justice Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022

1. DCFS to continue to develop and support a statewide system for investigators to have timely access to expert medical opinions in Child Abuse/Neglect when investigating certain allegations of child abuse (sexual abuse, serious harms, children under 3, medically complex children).
2. DCFS will work to secure solutions to ensure that MDT members who are jointly working on child abuse investigations (e.g. CACs, medical partners, LE, DCFS, mental health providers) can and must share any and all information regarding cases that are being investigated. They will work to create systems that allow for, and require, timely communication and consultation of information amongst MDT members to make decisions.

3. DCFS will form a work group, to ensure collaboration across all State Agency partners in this important work, supported by collaboration within the Governor's office, to advance the recommendations of regionally based specialization of DCFS investigators and improve DCFS' role in the MDT partnership. This would include high-level leadership within DCFS in the child protection division.
4. Experts, such as the Kirwin Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, have documented the impact that unconscious bias in the investigative process has on the outcomes of child protection cases and, most importantly, the child involved. Therefore, to ensure that everyone involved in the investigative process is treated in a fair, just, and equitable manner, it is recommended that MDT members undergo annual bias training.
5. In conjunction with bias training (see rec. #4), conduct an independent or outside agency assessment to identify the current state and to clearly define the desired state of the investigative process. Once the gaps in the current state and the desired state are determined, the most effective steps to close those gaps should be established and ongoing bias training should target addressing the gaps.
6. Beginning immediately, when approving potential members referred for the Children's Justice Task Force, the Office of the Director pays attention to and prioritizes diversity in race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and geographical representation, to ensure that the Task Force is comprised of members who, while fulfilling the mandated minimum number of populations and professions required by Statute, also represent the diversity of individuals impacted by and participating in the investigative process across the State of Illinois. In conjunction, the Task Force will establish an internal goal to prioritize diversity in the same manner through its recruitment process.
7. The usefulness and benefits of technology to carry out portions of the investigative and judicial process related to child abuse cases (including the use of tele-mental health services, mental health services, Zoom for social-distanced forensic interviews and MDT case reviews) during the pandemic, is well documented in the mandated 2021 Needs Assessment commissioned by the Task Force. It is recommended that the use of such technology be allowed to continue and promoted to increase access and participation, as Illinois emerges from the pandemic and continues the journey toward "normalization."
8. As recommended in the mandated 2021 Needs Assessment Commissioned by the Task Force, require that providers of all types of early childhood programs be trained on and have access to laminated information sheets on the types of bruises that raise suspicion for physical abuse of young children at different ages and stages of mobility, and on parent attributions that may flag abuse (Pierce et al, 2014).
9. The Task Force and DCFS are committed to a data informed way to improve the work and service of the Multi-Disciplinary Team including medical and mental health providers collaborating with the CAC and recommends continued commitment to timely and

thorough sharing of select informative data. Data elements should also include data on racial and underrepresented group or diversity information.

10. By the end of fiscal year 22, quarterly meetings between CACs and DCFS regional administrators be established to support and model both the collaboration and multidisciplinary approach to this important work.

CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAMS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Illinois established multidisciplinary and multi-agency child death review teams throughout the state with the Illinois Child Death Review Team Act (P.A. 88-614), which was signed into law on September 7, 1994. The Child Death Review Team Act has been amended several times since 1994 including August 2001, June and August 2008, August 2009, June and July 2010 and November 2018. The primary goals of the Child Death Review Team (CDRT) are: 1) to review the circumstances of child fatalities in order to gain a better understanding of their causes; and 2) to recommend changes in practice and policy that will prevent future injuries and deaths. The Child Death Review Team Executive Council is the coordinating and oversight body for the child death review teams' activities in Illinois.

Pursuant to the Act child death review teams are to be made up of at least one member from the following disciplines:

- Pediatrician or other physician knowledgeable about child abuse and neglect;
- Representative of the IDCFS;
- State's Attorney or State's Attorney's representative;
- Representative of a local law enforcement agency;
- Psychologist or psychiatrist;
- Representative of a local health department;
- Representative of a school district or other education or child care interests;
- Coroner or forensic pathologist;
- Representative of a child welfare agency or child advocacy organization;
- Representative of a local hospital, trauma center, or provider of emergency medical services; and
- Representative of the Department of State Police.

Each child death review team elects a chairperson and vice chairperson to represent the team on the CDRT Executive Council. The CDRT Executive Council includes these eighteen members and the Inspector General of IDCFS as an Ex-Officio member for a total of nineteen members.

The CDRT Executive Council operates according to the following objectives: 1) to serve as the voice of child death review teams in Illinois; 2) to oversee the regional teams in order to ensure that the teams' work is coordinated and in compliance with the statutes and operating protocol and best practices; 3) to ensure that the data, results, findings, and recommendations of the teams are adequately used to make changes in policies, procedures, and statutes to protect children in a timely manner; 4) to collaborate with the General Assembly, IDCFS, and others to

develop legislation needed to prevent child fatalities and to protect children; 5) to ensure that the review process for the regional teams is standardized in order to convey data, findings, and recommendations in a usable format; 6) to serve as a link with CDRT's throughout the country and participate in the National Child Death Review Team activities; 7) to develop an annual statewide training symposium to update knowledge and skills of CDRT members and promote the exchange of information between teams; 8) to provide the teams with the most current information and practices concerning child death review and related topics; and 9) to perform any other functions necessary to enhance the capability of CDRT to reduce and prevent child injuries and fatalities. Daniel Cuneo from the East St. Louis team is the CDRT Executive Council Chairperson. Judy Guenseth is the CDRT Executive Council Vice Chairperson. John Schweitzer is the IDCFS CDRT Manager, and Tamara Skube is the CDRT Executive Director contracted through IDCFS.

FY21 Executive Council Meeting Dates:

Videoconference Meetings

July 17, 2020

August 21, 2020

September 18, 20

October 16, 2020

November 20, 2020

December 18, 2020

January 15, 2021

February 19, 2021

March 19, 2021

April 16, 2021

Meetings with the Director of DCFS

August 6, 2020

October 1, 2020

December 3, 2020

February 4, 2021

June 6, 2021

Focus Areas of Interest

Annual Symposium Training and Annual Report

The 24th Annual Child Death Review Teams Symposium is currently on hold due to Covid 19 Pandemic.

The CDRT staff are currently working on the ***Illinois Child Death Review Teams Annual Report 2019***. This report provides detailed information and statistics on numerous categories of child death. It also presents charts of CDRT recommendations and IDCFS responses regarding: 1) primary prevention; 2) IDCFS systems; and 3) other systems.

Recommendations for FY 2022

1. 1.DCFS needs to resume the Death Investigation statewide training as soon as possible, and to record the same so that training will be available remotely now, and for incoming staff at in any tie in the future.
2. Complex cases with chronic medical issues should require a referral to DCFS nurse.
3. 3.Many of our recommendations this fiscal year were commendations for the workers excellent presentation and work on these difficult cases.

STATEWIDE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (SCAN)

STATEWIDE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (SCAN)

The Statewide Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services *"is created with the object of advising and consulting with the Director of the Department on setting priorities for the administration of child abuse prevention, shelter and service programs in Illinois."*

Purpose

The Statewide Citizen's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) is a legislative statutory advisory group established under the Abuse and Neglect Child Reporting Act (ANCRA, 325 ILCS 5/11.7). Their responsibilities as a committee have not changed since its conception in 1998. SCAN advises the Department on child abuse and neglect prevention services that promote the health, safety, and well-being of the children throughout the state. The SCAN members are approved by the Director for three-year terms. The SCAN member's experience varies across all disciplines impacting child welfare. Their expertise in the following areas of law, social work, mental health, law enforcement, education, criminal and juvenile court, family assessments, well-being of children and families, etc., brings focused and direct recommendations to ensure the Department is operating as statute requires. They are also seeking committee members without career background, yet who can provide highlighted opinions around the issues above. The SCAN committee continues to meet bi-monthly via video-conferences, teleconference and in person at the Chicago Thompson Center and main Springfield offices.

Focus Areas in Fiscal Year 2021

Due to the current pandemic, the SCAN Committee faced obstacles in meeting as a group to review case files and make recommendations, as these were only accessible office through secure file systems due to confidentiality and client privacy policies.

Policy Review: As an alternative, the SCAN committee chose to conduct a Departmental policy review to provide feedback to the Director on specific changes that could be made to support the health, safety, and well-being of the children throughout the state. The priority policies chosen to review were selected to align directly with the purpose & priorities outlined in the established statute. These policies chosen for review, directly impact intact and investigation services. The advisory group was aware that program services may be subject to Federal guidelines/requirements or consent decrees and any recommendations rendered for change in procedures may not be actionable. SCAN's objective was to potentially influence how these program services are monitored for compliance.

Build Membership Capacity: Two new members were appointed by the Director and appointments were updated for all current members. Two previous members are no longer on the roster.

CRP Engagement: The SCAN committee acknowledges the importance of collaboration and partnership among the other Citizen Review Panel committees. SCAN recognizes a united effort among the CRP groups recommendations may lead to a more integrated and systemic changes within the Department.

SCAN Activities During Fiscal Year 2021

SCAN elect a new Chair and Vice Chair and unanimously voted in two new members to the committee. Meetings were converted to an all virtual platform through WebEx in compliance with changes to the Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID pandemic. The committee has been working tirelessly to bring on a board-certified pediatrician to gain expertise in this area.

Several SCAN members were able to attend the Prevent Child Abuse Conference held virtually in November 2020.

The SCAN Chair and Co-Chair attended the Quarterly Meeting of the Illinois DCFS Citizens Review Panel, CRP. The panel discussed:

- Membership
- Reviewed the state and federal statutes to ensure that all are synchronized
- How SCAN could get assistance with satisfying the committee's neonatal mandate

SCAN is working to expand collaboration among the other CRP advisory groups and councils. The committee has reached out to the chairs of several other taskforces and review panels to foster an increase in collaboration between SCAN and other recommending committees to work in partnership and join forces to provide effective and productive recommendations.

The SCAN committee was able to attend virtually, the Human Trafficking Training presented by Kara Thompson and Kasandra Alvarado through the partnership with Selah Freedom. The group was provided information on the range of human trafficking prevention activities within the department by age group; and reviewed the children's human trafficking training programs by age group. The committee was provided time to ask questions pertaining to youth victim's assistance and were provided with available educational opportunities.

The committee was able to attend the Simulation Lab Training presented by Betsy Goulet, Clinical Assistant Professor at UIS through a virtual platform. The members were provided with a PowerPoint and video to show the simulated home and courtroom training experience. Members. The Simulation labs located in Springfield and the Chicago Emerald Office have increased child protection employee retention.

SCAN created a bylaw subcommittee to work on comparing the committee bylaws and authorizing statutes for consistency. The subcommittee's focus is to determine the language required for the SCAN Bylaws to reflect authorizing statutes.

The committee requested that the Department provide a short presentation to members that would cover the new online reporting system, the hotline in general, and how SCAN could assist in disseminating information about the online reporting system. DCFS Assistant SCR administrator provided a briefing to the group on Mandatory Reporter Training inclusive of the reporting process and the hotline. SCAN discussed how they committee could add value and advance prevention efforts.

The SCAN committee has been kept apprised of legislation that impacts child welfare issues through oral presentations by DCFS legal staff. The committee requested that the Department resume providing the committee with a written report containing all legislation affecting DCFS and identified specific areas of interest:

- A brief bill synopsis.
- Bill sponsors.
- Committee status.
- Pertinent information that would allow a proactive approach

SCAN has drafted and approved a committee member profile that will assist in determining gaps in the expertise level of membership outlined in the Statute. The group has continued efforts throughout the year to obtain additional members for SCAN, specifically those with lived experience, those within the LGBTQ community and a board certified neo-natal physician which is needed to satisfy the legislative requirements. They will continue to seek diversity of community participants to become members at large.

Policy Review

In an effort to continue the charge of advising and consulting the Director, during the pandemic SCAN formed subcommittees to review current Department policies to examine whether programs, procedures and guidelines could be further enhanced to promote the advancement of child abuse prevention, ensure operational requirements are being met and to provide feedback on policy language that could be further enriched.

SCAN considered the following Policies:

POLICY 2020.05 Revisions to Procedures 302.360, Health Care Services and Procedures 315, Permanency Planning to implement Public Act 101-0237

Policy 2020.06 Procedures 302 Appendix M, /Transition Planning for Adolescents and Procedures. Update for staff on amendments to IL law affecting older youth in care

Policy 2020.08 Public Act 101-0564 Redefines who is statutorily recognized as Mandated Reporters. Public Act 101-0237 When Mandated Reporters report to State Central Registry and there is a prior report

Policy 2020.15 Review of home and center licensing standards

Policy 2020.16 This Policy Guide provides revisions to Procedures 302.388 Intact Family Services to add the definition of “medically complex children” and language to address the needs of children considered to be medically complex and their families

SCAN FY21 Meeting dates:

Videoconference Meetings

July 22, 2020 (Special Call Meeting)

August 19, 2020

October 21, 2020

December 16, 2020

February 17, 2021

April 21, 2021

June 16, 2021

SCAN FY22 Meeting dates:

Videoconference Meetings

August 18, 2021

October 13, 2021

December 15, 2021

February 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

June 15, 2022

SCAN Recommendations for FY 2022

2. The onset of the coronavirus has made this a challenging year for the Child Welfare Community and the SCAN committee. The inability to meet in person coupled with changes within the Department caused many of the collaborative efforts usually performed by SCAN- tasks, reviews, and meetings to be suspended or reimagined. What came into focus were knowledge areas that we were less familiar with but require our attention. The recommendations support SCAN interest areas from now on.
3. The Committee recommends that SCAN be made aware of changes to Procedure 300 and the reasoning for the update. It further suggests that SCAN members be notified and allowed to participate in annual DCFS/POS training enabling the Committee to stay informed of child abuse and neglect investigative allegations.

4. SCAN understands the gravity of the Family First Federal Initiative, its potential impact on prevention and family preservation services in Illinois and recommends that a SCAN member be appointed to the Statewide Family First Steering Committee.
5. SCAN is aware that prevention and family preservation programs (i.e., Family Advocacy Centers, Intact Services) exist to keep families together. The Committee recommends that it be informed of all existing programs in these two categories and the policies that guide the service delivery. It is further recommended that DCFS personnel responsible for these programs annually provide a written report and meet with the Committee.
6. SCAN recommends that the Department institute and support quarterly meetings for all Citizen Review Committees, thus providing a platform for shared issue area collaborations.
7. The information contained within the Sunshine Report, while essential, must be easy to access and understand by an ordinary person. SCAN recommends modifying the Sunshine Report, making it more user-friendly and reflecting information in real-time.

**Illinois Children's Justice Task Force
Membership
May 2021**

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